

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN VIRGIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 05005

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: U.S. STANCE TOWARDS INDIA; PRELIMINARY VIEWS

REF: A. TOSEC 50102

B. NEW DELHI 8557

FOR SISCO FROM ADAMS

1. SECRETARY HAS APPROVED FOLLOWING MESSAGE IN RESPONSE
TO REF B FOR TRANSMISSION TO NEW DELHI:

BEGIN TEXT:

YOUR MESSAGE IS RIGHT ON TARGET IN TERMS OF THE POSTURE
YOU RECOMMEND IN THIS EARLY STAGE. DURING THIS INITIAL PERIOD,
WE AGREE THAT THE U.S. SHOULD AVOID ANY ACTIONS WHICH WOULD
UNDERCUT THE BASIS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF INDO-AMERICAN
RELATIONS WITH EITHER MRS. GANDHI OR A SUCCESSOR REGIME.

MUCH AS WE REGRET HER MOVES TO CURTAIL INDIA'S
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, WE HAVE NO REAL CAPACITY TO AFFECT
EVENTS. GRATUITIOUS USG CRITICISM OF MRS. GHANDI'S
ACTIONS MIGHT PROVIDE PSYCHIC PLEASURE, BUT WOULD OBVIOUSLY
INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE U.S. WOULD BECOME A WHIPPING
BOY, AND IMPAIR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY
RELATIONS OVER THE LONG HAUL.

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WE ALSO AGREE THAT WE SHOULD REVIEW OUR POSTURE PERIODICALLY

AS THE SITUATION UNFOLDS. SHOULD INDIA BECOME INCREASINGLY
AUTHORITARIAN, THE NATURE OF INDO-US TIES AND EXCHANGES
COULD ALTER. FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, IT SEEMS WISEST
TO DEFER JUDGMENT ON THE FUTURE SCOPE FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION.

REGARDING CURRECT OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD
CONTINUE THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED PATTERN OF JOINT COMMISSION
ACTIVITIES, NAMELY THAT WE LEAVE THE INITIATIVE TO THE INDIANS
AND NOT GET OUT AHEAD OF THEM. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT
SUBCOMMISSION MEETINGS SHOULD NOT BE SCHEDULED UNTIL AFTER
THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETS. ANY PLANS FOR NEW ACTIVITIES SHOULD
OF COURSE BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

ON THE QUESTION OF THE PRESS LINE, WE AGREE WITH YOU AND ARE
STICKING WITH A STRICT "NO COMMENT" STANCE. ONLY COMMENT MADE
THUS FAR HAS BEEN A LOW KEY WHILE HOUSE AND SUBSEQUENTLY

STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPRESSION OF REGRETS OVER
IMPOSITION OF PRESS CENSORSHIP. WE ALSO MADE A PROTEST THROUGH
INDIAN EMBASSY HERE OVER EXPULSION OF WASHINGTON POST
CORRESPONDENT LEWIS SIMONS.

ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL, WE CONCUR WITH YOUR RECOMMENDATION AND
WILL REVIEW TRIPS TO INDIA ON CASE BY CASE BASIS, SEEKING
EMBASSY VIEWS WHEN DEEMED NECESSARY. WE WILL DISCOURAGE VISITS
BY SENIOR PERSONNEL.

PEACE CORPS HAS ASKED FOR YOUR ADVICE REGARDING 23 PEACE
CORPS PERSONNEL SERVING IN OUTLYING AREAS. ARE THEY IN ANY
DANGER FROM LOCAL DISTURBANCES? AS SEEN FROM HERE, THERE APPEARS
NO NEED FOR ANY CHANGE IN OPERATIONS, BUT WE WOULD LIKE YOUR
VIEWS. ALSO, WE ARE NOT CLEAR WHAT YOU MEAN THAT YOU ARE
LIMITING USG SPONSORED PROGRAMS IN OUTLYING AREAS (PARA 3,
REFTEL). PLEASE ELUCIDATE. IN GENERAL, WE WOULD LIKE TO
PURSUE PROGRAMS IN A NORMAL ROUTINE WAY.

APPRECIATE YOUR EXCELLENT REPORTING. KEEP IT UP.

END TEXT.
KISSINGER
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